

QUESTION 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Place

Chapter 855 of 2018 (House Bill 532)

Summary

This proposed constitutional amendment would authorize the General Assembly to allow qualified individuals to register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day and vote on that same day. If the constitutional amendment passes, the General Assembly would have the power to pass legislation that would determine the specific procedures to be followed to implement voter registration at precinct polling places on Election Day.

The Maryland Constitution currently requires that voter registration close before Election Day. This proposed constitutional amendment would amend that requirement to allow qualified individuals to register and vote on Election Day. Under current law, a qualified individual may register and vote on the same day at an early voting center in the individual's county of residence during the period beginning the second Thursday before a primary or general election through the Thursday before the election. The proposed constitutional amendment would authorize the General Assembly to expand same-day voter registration to include Election Day itself.